



US Army Corps
of Engineers ®
New England District

Fact Sheet

Searsport Harbor, Searsport, Maine

Feasibility Study for Navigation Improvement and Maintenance Dredging

July 2007

696 Virginia Road, Concord, Massachusetts 01742-2751

1. Project: Searsport Harbor, Searsport, Maine, Navigation Improvement and Maintenance Dredging Project, General Investigation, Feasibility Study. Study called for by Section 365(a)(8) of the Water Resources Development Act of 17 August 1999, P.L. 106-53.
2. Location of Project: Searsport Harbor is located in the town of Searsport, in Waldo County, about 27 miles south of Bangor and 91 miles northeast of Portland, Maine. The small commercial fishing harbor is located near the center of town to the west, while the deep-draft commercial cargo port is located at Mack Point to the east.
3. Project Description: Searsport is the largest deep draft commercial port north of Portland. The existing Federal navigation project was authorized by River & Harbor Act of October 23, 1962 (P.L. 87-874). The existing project consists of an entrance channel, -35 feet MLW by 500 feet wide, from Penobscot Bay, west of Sears Island, northward to a turning basin of the same depth at Mack Point. (See Figure 1.) The project was completed in 1964. Mack Point is served by direct rail access to Bangor. The State Pier handles aggregates, forest products and other bulk cargos. The pier was designed to and constructed to have rail installed on the deck. The Sprague Energy and Irving Oil terminals are located west of the State Pier. Since completion of the new State Pier and upgrades to the petroleum terminals, the size of ships calling on Mack Point has increased and greater channel dimensions are required to meet the needs of those craft and to provide for projected growth in commerce from the new pier.
4. Sponsor: The Maine Port Authority (Department of Transportation) is the study Sponsor. Maine and the Corps executed a Feasibility Cost-Sharing Agreement on December 7, 2005.
5. Important Effects: The proposed plan calls for maintenance dredging of the existing 35-foot entrance channel and turning basin and deepening the channel and basin to about -40 feet MLLW and improving access to the berths at the newly reconstructed State Pier at Mack Point. All material is expected to be suitable for unconfined open-water disposal in Penobscot Bay at either the historic Belfast Bay Disposal Site or the currently active Rockland Disposal Site.
6. Costs: The feasibility study is estimated at about \$800,000. The improvement project is estimated to cost about \$10,000,000.
7. The Corps New England District contact is the Project Manager, Ms. Barbara Blumeris, at 978-318-8737, or barbara.r.blumeris@usace.army.mil.

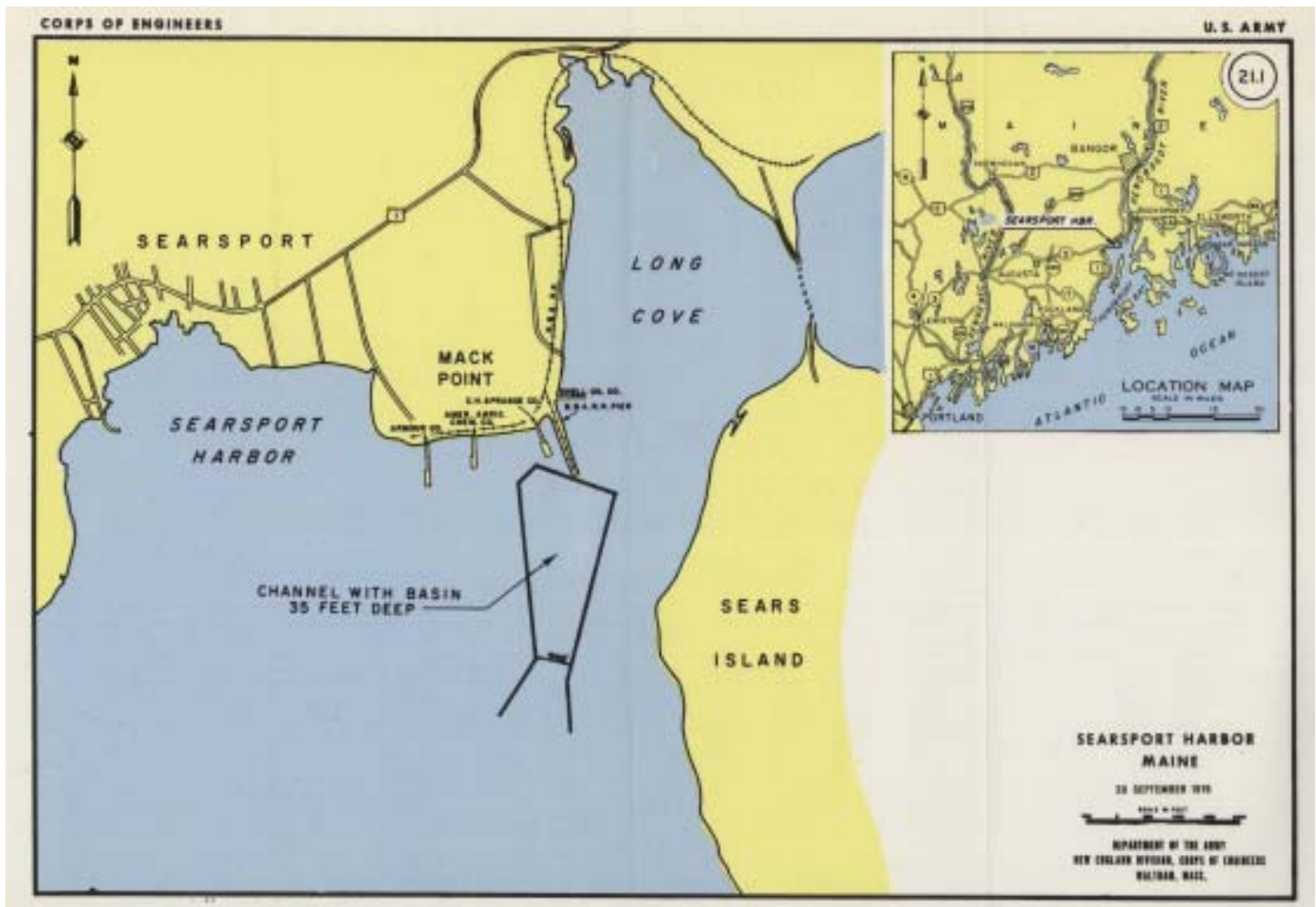


FIGURE 1
SEARSPORT HARBOR, MAINE
EXISTING NAVIGATION PROJECT